

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a city skyline with a diagonal beam of light. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy water. The bottom-right quadrant features a grizzly bear standing on a rock. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 21 March 2017 at 9.30 am.

COUNCILLORS:

David Alexander
Jim Blackwood
Tom Coleman
Linda Gow
Adrian Mahoney
Craig Martin (Convener)
Dr Craig R Martin
Malcolm Nicol
Alan Nimmo
Robert Spears

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Margaret Coutts
Dr Brendan McGuckin
Rev Michael Rollo

CO-OPTES:

Jonathan Barclay (Pupil Representative)
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

OFFICERS:

Nick Balchin, Principal Educational Psychologist
Tony Bragg, Education Team Manager
David Mackay, Head of Education
Cathy Megarry, Service Manager, Children's Services
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
Richard Teed, Senior Forward Planning Officer

EE36. Apologies

An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor G Goldie.

EE37. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

EE38. Minutes

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 31 January 2017 was approved.

EE39. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing a decision which had been implemented following the previous meeting on 31 January 2017 was provided.

Decision

The Education Executive noted the rolling action log.

EE40. Education Executive Membership

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services advising of the appointment of Dr Brendan McGuckin as the Roman Catholic Church representative and Ms Maureen Tait as the Church of Scotland representative on the Education Executive.

Dr McGuckin had been appointed with effect from 3 February 2017 and Ms Tait's appointment would commence on 5 May 2017.

The committee expressed its appreciation to Mrs Coutts for her contribution to its work and that of its predecessors since 2003.

Decision

The Education Executive noted the appointment of:-

- (1) Dr Brendan McGuckin to representative of the Roman Catholic Church with effect from 3 February 2017; and**
- (2) Ms Maureen Tait as the representative of the Church of Scotland with effect from 5 May 2017.**

EE41. Children's Services Transport Policy

The Director of Children's Services presenting a Children's Services Transport Policy for approval.

An integrated education and social work transport policy had been developed following a review of current procedures. It was proposed that the policy would replace the current Transport Policy which specifically referred

to home to school transport with one which integrates all Children's Services transport functions.

The review concluded that transport for children, whether home to school or for Looked After Children, should be organised by one Service. It was proposed that overall management of transport, including the management of Pupil Transport Assistants and volunteer drivers would lie with Development Services although the budget will remain with Children's Services.

The new integrated policy had been updated to reflect current working practices. There were no changes to eligibility criteria.

The Director confirmed that an update report would be submitted after 12 months.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) agreed the new integrated Children's Services Transport Policy set out in appendix 1 of the report;**
- (2) noted the draft operational guidance that underpins the policy set out in appendix 2 of the report; and**
- (3) agreed that the overall management of all transport provision defined within the policy was to be provided by the Transport Planning Unit in Development Services including the management of Transport Assistants, once the necessary staff transfers and a service level agreement have been agreed.**

Councillor Gow joined the meeting during consideration of the previous item.

EE42. Increasing Capacity in Specialist Education, Update and New Developments

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services proposing increased capacity from August 2017 for pupils with significant Additional Support Needs (ASN).

The Education Executive had previously agreed, on 29 March 2016 (ref EE48), to expand provision in the specialist primary sector for children with additional support needs and to both use the existing space in Carrongrange School and to expand the ASN base in Maddiston Primary School to meet growing demand from children with severe and complex additional support needs.

A policy development panel was established on 11 November 2014 (ref EE30) to look at the longer term strategy for the provision of ASN and inclusion services.

The demand for ASN provision has continued to grow since the meeting in March 2016. Further capacity is required over the short term to meet this demand for 2 years in the primary sector and 1 year in the secondary sector.

The report set out proposals to increase capacity at:-

- Ladeside Additional Support Facility;
- Kinnaird Thistle Wing/Annexe;
- Grangemouth High School Additional Support Centre; and
- Denny High School Northfield Unit.

The additional cost of the proposed increase in capacity was £650k, of which £405k related to 2017/18. This would be met by:-

- use of additional budget for ASN provision 17/18 (£250k);
- realignment of existing staff budgets (£105k); and
- use of Devolved School Management (DSM) reserves (£50k).

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) agreed the additional staffing required to meet the growth in Additional Support Needs (ASN) capacity as detailed in section 4.2 of the report; and**
- (2) noted how Children's Services propose to finance the growth in staffing as detailed in section 6.1 of the report.**

EE43. Report on Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Attainment in Falkirk in 2015/2016

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services advising on the attainment of young people leaving Falkirk Council's secondary schools in 2015/16.

The report provided information on Falkirk Schools' pupil attainment for the past 5 years in:-

- school leaver destinations – % in a positive destination;

- attainment in literacy;
- attainment in numeracy;
- average tariff points of lowest, middle and highest attaining school leavers; and
- attainment of 3 or 5 Highers.

The report provided context for the information and an analysis of each set of data compared to the national average and a virtual comparator (made up of pupils from other Local Authorities who have the same characteristics as pupils in Falkirk Council schools).

In regard to closing the attainment gap, the report presented the average points of Falkirk Council's school leavers compared with the national average, broken down by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) decile in which they live.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted Falkirk Council secondary schools' attainment results; and**
- (2) agreed that officers will work with the Quality Improvement Team to support and challenge schools in relation to tracking and monitoring of pupils progress, and curriculum design.**

EE44. Convener's Remarks

In recognition that this was the final meeting of the Education Executive before the local government elections in May, the convener thanked the members of the committee and officers for their support and commitment and highlighted the achievements over the previous 5 years.